



Roast & Ritual

Elevate the Soul

5 Must Visit
Coffee Shops in
Pittsburgh

Brewing Community:
More than just a coffee shop with
Adela Madrigon

April 2025



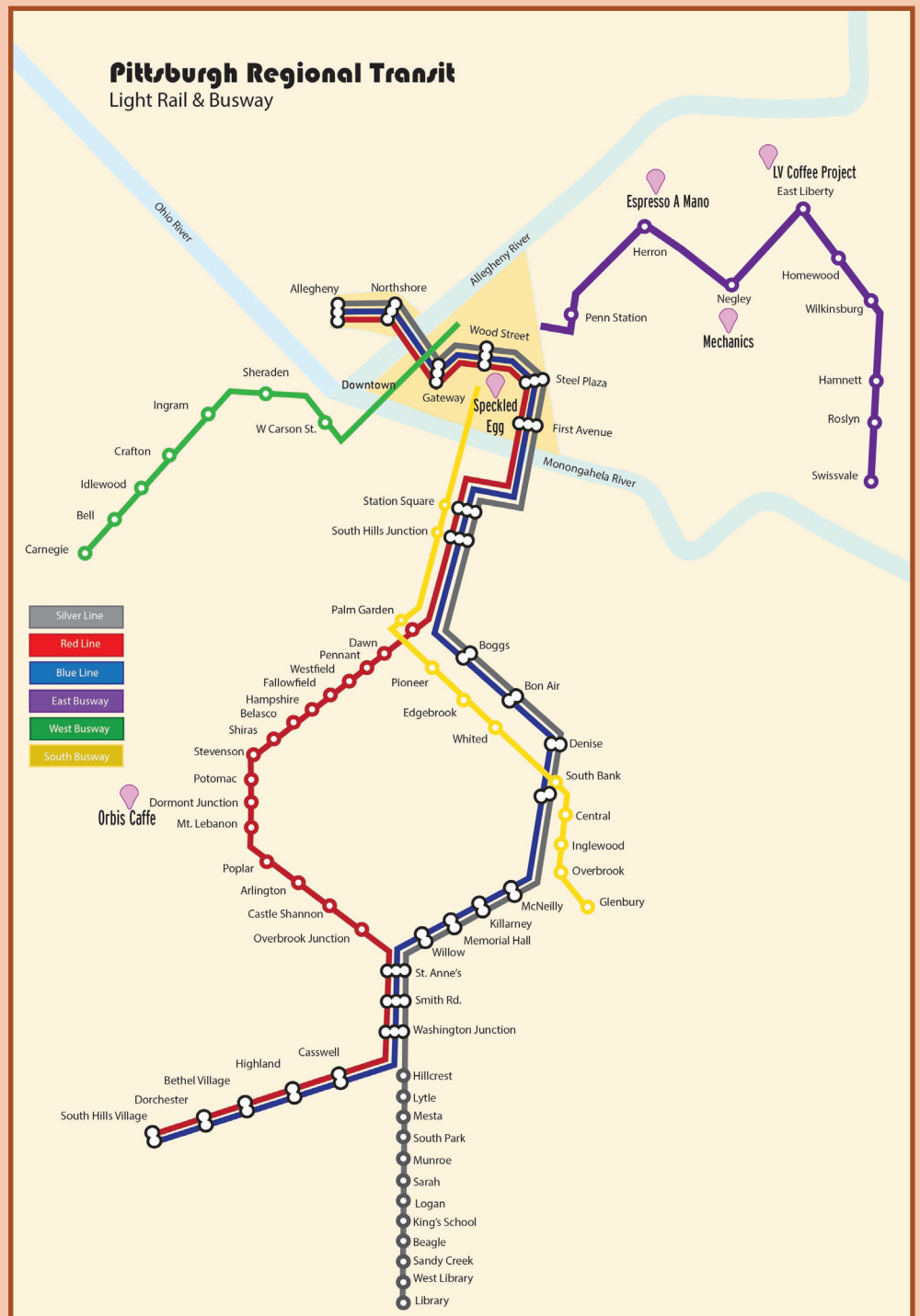
\$4.99

5 Coffee Shops to Visit

Pittsburgh, PA

Explore by Transit

1. Espresso a Mano
Station: Herron
2. Mechanics
Station: Negley
3. LV Coffee Project
Station: East Liberty
4. Speckled Egg
Station: Steel Plaza
5. Orbis Cafe
Station: Mt. Lebanon



Brewing Community :

How Adela Madrigon Built More Than Just a Coffee Shop

Nestled on a bustling street corner in a city grappling with division, La Casa del Sol is more than just a coffee shop. It's a sanctuary, a space where people can breathe, feel seen, and gather. Behind its warm ochre walls and the scent of freshly ground beans stands Adela Madrigon, a woman whose passion for coffee is only rivaled by her love for her community.

Elena, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, grew up balancing two worlds. Fluent in Spanish and English, she carried the resilience of her parents while pursuing her own dreams. After earning her Master's degree in public policy, she envisioned working in government, shaping policies that uplift marginalized communities. But disillusioned by a system growing increasingly hostile toward people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, migrants, and women, she realized change often begins at the grassroots level. So she pivoted, trading office spaces for espresso machines, legislative meetings for community roundtables.

With every cup poured at La Casa del Sol, Adela fosters connection. The café isn't just a place for lattes and pastries—it's an incubator for ideas,

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activism, and belonging. She designed it intentionally: shelves lined with books by Latina authors, queer voices, and

feminist thought leaders a community board brimming with local resources; a menu infused with her heritage—café de olla, conchas, and tamales on weekends. But beyond aesthetics and flavors, it's the heart of the space that draws people in.

Building a Safe Haven:

From the beginning, Adela wanted to do more than serve coffee—she wanted to empower. She launched weekly book clubs, curating readings that challenge, educate, and inspire. From Bell Hooks to Gloria Anzaldúa, discussions in her café spark self-discovery and collective healing.

Recognizing the urgent need for support networks, she partnered with local therapists and wellness practitioners to host women's wellness circles—a space where women could talk about mental health, self-care, and healing. On Wednesdays, youth development workshops help young people build confidence, teaching them leadership skills and the importance of civic engagement. And every month, La Casa del Sol transforms into a mini town hall, where city council members and activists discuss policies affecting the community.

“People are hurting,” Adela says. “They feel unseen, unheard. This café is a space where they don't have to justify their existence—where they are celebrated, valued, and powerful.”

Resistance in Every Cup:

Operating a progressive, inclusive space hasn't come without its challenges. As policies become more restrictive, Adela has faced backlash. Some have attempted to silence her, calling her efforts “too political.” But she refuses to be deterred. “Creating safe spaces isn't political; it's necessary,” she insists.

Despite the obstacles, Adela remains steadfast. “Resistance takes many forms,”



she says, steaming a fresh cup of café con leche. “For me, it's in creating a space where people can be unapologetically themselves. Where Black, brown, and Indigenous women can sit, sip, and scheme about a better world.”

A Model for the Future:

La Casa del Sol has become a blueprint for what is possible. Other coffee shop owners have reached out, asking how they too can turn their businesses into community hubs. Adela shares what she knows—how to balance business with activism, how to build networks of care, how to hold space for difficult conversations.

In a world growing increasingly hostile, La Casa del Sol stands as proof that community care is revolutionary. That in the act of brewing coffee, in the warmth of shared stories, in the power of gathering, change is not only possible—it's already happening.

Adela smiles as she watches the café fill with familiar faces and new ones. This was always the dream. Not just a coffee shop, but a home—a place where everyone belongs.